

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-14 and 19-21 were presented for examination. Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 5. In the office action claims 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, while claims 1-3, 6, 7, 13, 14 and 19-21 were under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Kaskouras (U.S. Patent No. 2,455,496), and claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Kaskouras in view Allen Sr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,457,834). Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant has canceled claims 12-14 and 19-21 without prejudice. Accordingly, applicant submits that the rejections to claims 12-14 and 19-21 are now moot.

Applicant has amended claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-11 to more succinctly claim the invention. Support for the aforementioned amendments is found in the specification as filed. Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced by the foregoing amendments.

In the office action, the examiner indicated that dependent claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 5 to be in independent form and to include the limitations of claim 1 previously presented in applicant's response filed December 5, 2005. Accordingly, applicant submits that claim 5 is now in a condition for allowance. Further, applicant submits that since claims 2, 3, 6, 7 and 9-11 have been amended to depend from claim 5 they are also now in a condition for allowance.

Referring to independent claim 1, as amended, the claim recites at least the following limitations: "a length of rigid material having an upper surface and a lower surface; a wedge-shaped head located on the lower surface at a distal end of the length of rigid material."

Kaskouras, however, does not disclose "a length of rigid material having an upper surface and a lower surface; a wedge-shaped head located on the lower surface at a distal end of the length of rigid material."


Accordingly, because Kaskouras does not teach all the limitations of amended claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over the cited reference.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the office action and that the claims herein should now be allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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